

MR. GALES & SEATON:

My dear old friends: I suppose you'll be amazingly disappointed to find I'm away off here, pushing on to the seat of war, and didn't call to see you when I come through Washington. But you mustn't blame me for it, for I couldn't help it; the President wouldn't let me call: he said I was getting quite too thick with you, writing letters to you and all that. And when he spoke about the letters, he looked kind of red and showed considerable spunk.

Says he, Major Downing, I have put a good deal of confidence in you as a friend of my administration; and if you are a friend to it, you must let Gales and Seaton alone; keep out of their way and have nothing to do with them; they are dangerous, mischief-making fellows, eternally peckin' at my administration, all weathers. Let me try to keep things ever so snug, and lay my plans ever so deep, they are sure to dig them all up, lug them into the Intelligence, and blaze 'em all over the country. Confound their pictures, they are the most troublesome customers an administration ever had; they're come pretty near swamping me two or three times. So, if you are my friend, I warn you not to be so thick with Gales and Seaton.

Well, says I, Colonel, you know I am a friend to you and your administration, as much as I ever was to the old General and his administration; and I shall stand by you and do every thing I can to help you out of this scrape you've got into about the war. But I don't know that that need make me break with Gales and Seaton. We've been old friends so long, it would be kind of hard for me to give 'em up now; and I don't hardly think they are quite so bad as you think for. They may not mean to do you so much hurt when they put these things into their paper, and only put them in because they think folks want to know what's going on. Mr. Richie sometimes puts things into his paper that folks think don't do you no good.

The President give two or three hard chaws upon his cud of tobacco, and says he, Yes, Major, that's too true, it must be confessed; and it annoys me beyond all patience. But then I have to forgive it and overlook it, because Mr. Richie don't mean it. The old gentleman is always sorry for it, and always willing to take it back. And then he's such a tuff old fellow to fight the federalists, I can't have a heart to scold at him much about his mistakes and blunders.

Well, says I, Colonel, being you've named federalists, I want to know if any of them animals is really supposed to be alive any where in the country now-a-days. Seeing such awful accounts about 'em in the Union paper all the time, I inquired all the way along through New England, where they used to be the thickest, and I couldn't get track or one; and when I asked the folks if there was any federalists any where in them quarters, they all stared at me and said they didn't know what sort of critters they was. When I got to Downingville I asked uncle Joshua about it. He said, in his younger days there used to be considerable many of 'em about, but they wasn't thought to be dangerous, for they never was much given to fighting. But he said he guessed they'd all died out long ago, for he hadn't come across one this twenty years. So now, Colonel, says I, how is it they are so thick in Mr. Richie's paper all the time?

At that he give me a very knowing kind of a look, and lowered his voice down almost to a whisper; and says he, Major, I'll tell you how that is. When Mr. Richie was a young man he used to fight a good deal with the federalists, and took a good deal of pride in it; and now the fancies and scenes of his youth all seem to come back fresh to his mind, and he can't think or talk about any thing else. You know that's oftentimes the way with old people. As he always used to have the name of a smart fighter, I give him the command of the newspaper battery here to defend my administration. But 'twas as great a mistake as 'twas when I sent Taylor into Mexico; I didn't know my man. No matter what forces was gathering to overthrow my administration, Mr. Richie somehow didn't seem to see 'em; no matter how hard they fired at him, he didn't seem to hear it; and when I called to him to fire back, he would rouse up and touch off a few squibs with about as good aim as the boys take when they fire crackers on the 4th of July, and did about as much execution. At last I found out a way that I could make the old veteran fight like a Turk and hold on like a bulldog. It was by giving him a notion at any time that he was fighting with federalists. Since I made that discovery he's been more help to me. Whenever I see the enemy encircling himself around me, and bringing up his batteries to fire into my administration, all I have to do is to whisper in Mr. Richie's ear and say, "Mr. Richie, the air smells of federalism: you may depend upon it there is federalism abroad somewhere." In a minute, you've no idea with what fury the old gentleman flies round, and mounts his heaviest guns, and sets his paper battery in a roar. His shots fly right and left, and sometimes knock down friends as well as foes. To be sure they don't make a very great impression upon the enemy; but then there's this advantage in it: if he don't kill or beat off the enemy, he keeps the administration so perfectly covered up with smoke that the enemy can't see half the time where to fire at us. On the whole, Mr. Richie is a valuable man to my administration, notwithstanding all his mistakes and blunders.

Just then the door opened, and who should come in but Mr. Richie himself. As he opened the door he ketched the sound of the two last words the President was saying.

"Mistakes and blunders!" says Mr. Richie, says he, what have you got something more of Scott and Taylor's blundering in Mexico? Nothing more to-day, says the President. I was only telling Major Downing how their blunders there have come pretty near ruining the country, and how it is absolutely necessary to get the staff out of their hands somehow or other before they quite finish the job. I'm going now to try one more plan, Mr. Richie; but be careful that you don't say any thing about it in the Union, and blow it all up. I tried once to send Col. Benton on for the same purpose, and Congress blowed that up. Then I sent 'Trist on for the same purpose, and Scott has blowed him up. Now I'm going to send Major Downing, not as a regular Chaplain, but as a sort of watch upon them, you know, to work round and do the business up before any body knows it. He isn't to go to Scott nor Taylor, nor have any thing to do with 'em, but work his way into Mexico, and go right to Santa Anna and knock up a bargain with him. I don't care what he gives. The fact is, Mr. Richie, the country needs peace, and I'll be peace, cost what it will.

An excellent idea, says Mr. Richie, an excellent plan, sir. I'm for peace at all hazards, if it is to be found any where in Mexico—that is, if we can get hold of it before Scott or Taylor does. And I think Major Downing is just the man for it—a true statesman democratic republican; and whatever he does will go for the benefit of the Administration. Now the country's shins are aching pretty bad with the war, if we can fix up a good smooth peace right in it, who knows Mr. President, but it might make our Administration so popular that you and I

might both be elected to serve another four years? But when is the Major to start?

Right off to-night, says the President, or, rather, in the morning before daylight—before any body in Washington finds out that he has got back from Downingville. I have forbid his calling at the Intelligence office, and I don't want they should find out or mistrust that he's been here. If they should get wind of the movement, they would be sure to throw some constitutional difficulty in the way, and try to make a bad botch of the business.

The President stop me into his room, and charged me not to leave the house, while he sent for Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Marcy to fix up my private instructions. While he was gone, Mr. Richie fixed me up a nice little bundle of private instructions too, on his own hook, modded, he said, on the Virginia Resolutions of '98. Presently the President came back with my budget all ready, and give me my instructions, and filled my pockets with rations, and told me how to draw whenever I wanted money; and before daylight I was off a good piece on the road to the war.

Today I met a man going on to carry letters to the Government from General Scott's side of the war, and I made him stop a little while to take this letter to you; for I was afraid you might bring to think I was dead. He says Scott is quite wrathful about the Trist business, and wants to push right on and take the city of Mexico, but Mr. Trist is disposed to wait and see if he can't make a bargain with Santa Anna's men. I shall push along as fast as I can, and get into the city of Mexico if possible before Scott does, and if I only once get hold of Santa Anna, I have no doubt I shall make a trade.

I don't know yet whether I shall take Scott's road or Taylor's road to go to the city of Mexico; it will depend a little upon the news I get on the way. Two or three times, when I have been stopping to rest, I have been looking over my private instructions. They are fast rate, especially Mr. Richie's.

I remain your old friend, and the President's private Ambassador,
MAJOR JACK DOWNING.

ASTRONOMICAL.

COMMUNICATED FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

NATIONAL OBSERVATORY,

WASHINGTON, AUGUST 12, 1847.

SIR: The new planet discovered on the first day of July last by the am. Mr. Hencke who first discovered Astrea, was observed here last night with the equatorial, and on the meridian with the west and German circle.

It was first observed the night before with the equatorial alone. The far of comparison used by this instrument on each night is in R. A.—17h. 4m. 55s. 45 (7.8 mag.) Bessel's zone, 255.

Apparent places of the new planet corrected for refraction by observations of August 10th and 11th:

Mean time, Washington.	R. A.	Decl. south.
Aug. 10.....	33 25.0.....	16 55 17.28.....
Aug. 11.....	17 38.9.....	16 55 28.87.....
Aug. 11.....	36 39.....	16 55 28.28.....
Aug. 11.....	36 39.....	16 55 28.33.....

This planet is also an asteroid, and is the sixth of the system. It is of the 10 magnitude, and the telescope presents it without any disk.

Prof. Rumker, of Hamburg, in a letter of the 9th ultimo, communicated to me the first intelligence with regard to this planet; but the weather has been such as to prevent an earlier observation upon it. In looking over my observing book I find that, from July 16th to August 10th, I have been enabled to observe during one night only.

Respectfully, &c.

M. F. MAURY,

Lieutenant United States Navy.

Hon. Jno. Y. Mason, Secretary of the Navy.

A DISTINCTION AND A DIFFERENCE.—A judge out West has recently decided that it might be insanity to sign another man's name to a check in place of your own, but when you draw the money on the check and spend it, there is a good deal of sanity in the proceeding.

MONEY PAID FOR COTTON.—Mr. McQueen stated in evidence before a committee of the House of Commons, last month, that in the course of the last twenty-five years England has paid, for cotton alone, to the U. States, 268,000,000 sterling, or \$1,340,000,000.

CAPTURE OF A SLAVE WITH NINETEEN FIVE HUNDRED SLAVES ON BOARD.—Capt. Clark, of the ship Woodside, from Canton, arrived at St. Helena that the British brig Waterwitch, on the 12th of June last, 100 miles W. S. W. from Ainkie, captured an American built brig, having "Bantah, of Portland," painted in large white letters on her stern. No colors or papers on board. On the log was written Capt. Forsyth. The crew were all Brazilians. She had on board 508 live and two dead slaves. She was sent to Sierra Leone for adjudication. The Bantah was eight days from the coast, between Congo river and Amboussie.

LAW OF CONTRACTS.—We have received from the publishers, Messrs. Lea & Blanchard, of Philadelphia, a copy of a handsome edition of "A Treatise on the Law of Contracts and Rights and Liabilities ex contractu," by C. G. Anderson, of the Middle Temple, Barrister at Law. The volume comprises 900 pages of close print, and from its table of contents and copious index appears to embrace all the ramifications of its important subject. As a professional book we can not undertake to speak of it, but its style appears to us to possess in a high degree the qualities proper for such a work.

EARTHQUAKE.—There was a slight shock of an earthquake at the East on Sunday last, which was felt at Boston, New Bedford, Nantucket, Cape Cod, Vineyard Sound, &c.

A Naval Court of Inquiry, to examine into the cause of the recent accident to the United States ship Jamestown, assembled on Tuesday on board the U. States ship Pennsylvania. The Court consists of the following officers: Com. WILKINS, President; Com. KEARNEY and Capt. WEBB members; Lieut. A. SINGLAIN, Judge Advocate.

A Catalogue of the Officers and Students of the Washington (Penn.) College has been sent to us, from which we learn that the institution is in a very prosperous condition. The following is a summary of the students:

Seniors.....	34	Juniors.....	36
Sophomores.....	23	Freshmen.....	12
Preparatory and English.....	53	Select Students.....	22

Total number of Students.....190

The course of instruction, as arranged by the Faculty, is well calculated to facilitate the advancement of the students, and give them a complete classical education.

STILL EXTENDING.—The Western Telegraph has reached Columbus, Ohio; the first despatch from that point having reached Philadelphia on Wednesday. Not many days will elapse before this line will be extended to Cincinnati. The section between Pittsburgh and Cleveland, 160 miles, is nearly completed, and will be in operation by the 30th instant.

WIN SPORTS OF THE WEST.—By the Batavia Times we see that the people of Livingston county are adding themselves to a peculiar class of sports, and, figuratively speaking, temporarily making beasts of themselves for the amusement of the public. That paper gives the following account of three unique performances which came off there week before last:

The first feat was by a man who wagged twenty-five dollars that he could draw a buggy from Mount Morris to Geneva (six miles) and back in six hours. He accomplished it considerably within the time.

The second was by a young gentleman who wagged eight dollars he could draw a sulky half way to Geneva (three miles) and back in three hours, and carry a man in it (three miles)—the man to pay five dollars for the ride. This was also accomplished within the time.

The third and last feat was a wheelbarrow race, one mile out and back, the man wagging ten dollars that, after taking hold of the handles of the wheelbarrow, he would wheel it the whole distance without moving his arms forward or back three inches. Held it, and afterwards wagged twenty-five dollars that he would go eleven miles in the same manner.

WASHINGTON.

Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 1847.

THE AUGUST ELECTIONS.

NORTH CAROLINA.—In North Carolina the Whigs gain three Representatives in Congress. In the first district THOS. L. CLINGMAN and J. G. BYNUM, both Whigs, were the candidates. We know not which is elected. The other districts return the following gentlemen: NATHANIEL BOYDEN, DANIEL M. BARRINGER, AUGUSTIN H. SHEPPERD, RICHARD S. DONNELLY, and DAVID OUTLAW, Whigs; and ABRAHAM VENABLE, J. R. DANIEL, and JAMES J. McKAY, Democrats.

ALABAMA.—From Alabama the delegation in the next Congress will be two Whigs and five Democrats, viz: JOHN GAYLE and HENRY W. HILLIARD, Whigs; SAMSON W. HARRIS, S. W. INGE, GEO. S. HOUSTON, W. R. W. COBB, and FRANKLIN W. BOWDON, Democrats. A Whig gain of one member.

INDIANA.—The Congressional election in this State has resulted in the choice of three Whigs and seven Democrats, being a Whig gain of one.

First District.—ELISHA ENBREE and ROBERT DALE OWEN, candidates. Mr. Enbree (Whig) elected by 460 majority. Mr. Owen's majority two years ago was 1,015. A Whig gain.

Second District.—JOHN S. DAVIS and THOMAS J. HENLEY, candidates. Mr. Henley (Dem.) re-elected by a majority of 42 votes; his former majority was 843.

Third District.—P. A. HACKENMAN and JOHN L. ROBINSON, candidates. Mr. Robinson (Dem.) elected.

Fourth District.—CALEB B. SMITH and CHARLES H. TEST, candidates. Mr. Smith (Whig) re-elected by a large majority.

Fifth District.—NICHOLAS McCARTY and WM. W. WICK, candidates. Mr. Wick (Dem.) re-elected by a majority of 200 or 300 votes; his former majority was 1,676.

Sixth District.—GEORGE G. DUNN and D. M. DOBSON, candidates. Mr. Dobson (Dem.) has been elected by a small majority. The majority for Mr. Davis, the late Speaker of the House of Representatives, in this district was very little short of 3,000.

Seventh District.—RICHARD W. THOMPSON and JOSEPH A. WRIGHT, candidates. Mr. Thompson (Whig) elected.

Eighth District.—DAVID BRICK and JOHN PETTIT, candidates. Mr. Pettit (Dem.) re-elected. Some of the papers make Mr. CLARK the Whig candidate in this district; which may be correct, but finding the above name on our list, we give it the preference.

Ninth District.—DAVID D. PRATT and CHARLES W. CATCATH, candidates. Mr. Catcath (Dem.) elected.

Tenth District.—WM. G. EWING and WM. ROCKWELL, candidates. Mr. Rockwell (Dem.) elected.

KENTUCKY.—It is probable that our political opponents will have four of the ten members from this State, which will be a Whig loss of one. Two of the districts in which they have succeeded are decidedly Whig, and the election of Democrats in them is only to be accounted for by local and personal causes.

First District.—SAMUEL DULANEY, LYNN BOYD, and ISAAC BERNETT were the candidates—the two last named being Democrats. There are yet to be returns, but it is taken for granted that Mr. Boyd is re-elected.

Second District.—JOHN F. TOWN and B. L. CLARKE, candidates. The vote close, and Mr. Clarke (Dem.) elected; a Whig loss.

Third District.—ROBERT L. WADDELL and SAMUEL O. PETTON, candidates. The contest so close that we do not yet know the result. It is feared that Mr. PETTON (Dem.) is elected. If so, a Whig loss.

Fourth District.—ALFRED BUCKNER and ANDREW J. JAMES, candidates. Mr. Buckner (Whig) is elected; his majority as far as heard from being 370 votes.

Fifth District.—JOHN B. THOMPSON and CHARLES A. WICKLIFFE, late Postmaster General, candidates. Mr. Thompson (Whig) elected by a majority of 700 or 800 votes.

Sixth District.—GREEN ADAMS and J. PRICE are the candidates—both Whigs. Mr. Adams is elected; a Whig gain.

Seventh District.—GARRETT DUNCAN and DAVID MENWETHER, candidates. Mr. Duncan (Whig) elected by a majority of 311.

Eighth District.—CHARLES S. MOREHEAD, S. F. J. TRARUE, and ALEXANDER MARSHALL, candidates.—Mr. Trarue running as a Native American. Mr. Morehead (Whig) elected by more than 1,100 votes over either of his competitors.

Ninth District.—LEANDER M. COX and RICHARD FRENCH, candidates. Mr. French (Dem.) is elected; a Whig loss.

Tenth District.—JOHN P. GAINES and LUCIUS DESHA, candidates. Mr. Gaines (Whig) elected, being a Whig gain; majority about 150.

TENNESSEE.—Our accounts from Tennessee, thus far, are highly encouraging, and the opinion is confidently expressed that NEIL S. BROWN, the Whig candidate, is elected Governor over AARON V. BROWN, the present incumbent. The Louisville Journal of Monday says:

"We give below all the returns that have come to hand, from which it will be seen that the Whigs have gained in all directions, even in Middle Tennessee, the stronghold of Lococoism, and that the gallant Whig champion, NEIL S. BROWN, is in all probability elected Governor. The passengers in last night's stage from Nashville say that when they left Tennessee even the Lococoists acknowledged the election of the Whig candidate by a probable majority of a thousand."

"In Davidson county, NEIL S. BROWN (Whig) gains 8 votes, in Robertson 72, in Williamson 116, in Bedford 146 in Maury (Mr. Polk's own county) 149, and three precincts to hear from, which will increase it; in Giles 13, in Lawrence 22, in Wilson 42, in part of Smith county 100, which will be increased to 200, [and we can add 200 in Knox county]. The Loco candidate has gained 13 in Sumner and 27 in De Kalb."

The above twelve counties show a net Whig gain of 727 on the vote of 1845, when the Democratic majority in the State was 1,470. There are seventy-two counties. The Whigs have also gained several members of the Legislature in the counties heard from. The returns are not yet in from any of the Congressional districts.

BALTIMORE AND PITTSBURG.

The Baltimore American explains that the law which has recently been declared "null and void" by the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, was an act of the Legislature of that State granting to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company the right to construct their road through the territory of Pennsylvania to Pittsburgh, but which enactment was so clogged with onerous restrictions and reservations that it was not accepted by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company. Hence the declaration of the Secretary of the Commonwealth was a mere matter of form—the time for the acceptance of the act having expired.

The act thus rejected and annulled, however, should not be confounded with another act of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, granting a charter for the construction of a railroad from Pittsburgh to the town of Connelleville. The charter of this company is still in full force, and as the route of their road is so directly in the course which it has been conducted to be taken by the Baltimore and Ohio railroad in its extension from Cumberland to the Ohio river, some of the citizens of Baltimore as well as of Pittsburgh hope that the Baltimore and Ohio Company will yet avail itself of the route offered by the Connelleville charter, by subscribing, in connexion with the citizens of Pittsburgh, for the stock necessary to construct that road.

FROM THE RIO GRANDE.

The steamer *Ohio* has brought to New Orleans accounts from the Brascos to the 31st ultimo.

We observe nothing which goes to confirm the rumor of Gen. Scott's having entered the city of Mexico. The Matamoros "Flag" of the 28th thus mentions it:

"It has been rumored here for a week past that Gen. Scott had arrived in the city of Mexico, with a loss of three hundred men, and we learn from good authority that positive intelligence has been received here to that effect; but whether he had a fight at Rio Frio or in the city itself, at what time he arrived there, with other particulars, appear to be matters of uncertainty. If the brigades of Generals Pillow and Caldwell joined the Commander-in-chief at Puebla, his force must have numbered upwards of 12,000 men, with which he could have easily overcome all opposition. It is also asserted here that Gen. Valencia, at last accounts, had left San Luis for the city of Mexico with a large force."

There being little doubt that Gen. Scott was at Puebla on the 14th, it is not possible that he could have entered the city of Mexico in time for the news to reach Matamoros a week previous to the 28th ultimo.

A letter from the correspondent of the "National," dated at Brascos on the 30th ultimo, says:

"We had a rare up here on yesterday. A set of fellows are always found hovering, like a flock of obscene birds, on the skirts of an army. Some of them at this point are now claiming the right to exercise the civil functions, such as magistrates, notaries, sheriffs, &c. under the laws of Texas, much to the annoyance of the officers of the army now in charge here. On yesterday, just as one of the United States steamers had hauled alongside of a schooner to tow her across a posse of those loafers and jail-birds boarded and took forcible possession of the schooner, claiming pilotage in the name of a man who delights in the various titles of pilot, squire, chief magistrate, constable, wreck-master, oysterman, &c. Major Eastland went off in an armed boat, and, as there was no boat for your city, packed them on board the *Telegraph* for Vera Cruz."

The correspondent of the "Pleayune" writes from Buena Vista on the 18th July as follows:

"It is reported that Urra has gone to Matuhala, and that Minon's cavalry are on their way to Potosi, a small place about seventy-five miles from here, on the San Luis route. It is also stated, on good Mexican authority, that the troops which have been occupying San Luis, numbered by 2,000 from Zacatecas, are on the march to the city of Mexico. Some degree of credit is attached to these reports, and they are not at all improbable. Various other reports are in circulation touching the movements of the enemy in this direction, which are not generally credited or entitled to credit."

An extraordinary Mexican express has arrived in town from San Luis Potosi, on route from some point west of the mountains, but what its purport is of course has not leaked out. It is thought that a movement is on foot."

The "Flag" says that a letter was received on the 26th, by the Commandant of Matamoros from Gen. Hopping, stating that he had received information that Gen. Urra was on this side of the mountains with some four thousand men, and requesting to be reinforced by a squadron of dragoons. A company of mounted men from Ohio were ordered to report themselves to Gen. Hopping; but, although the *Ohio* did not sail till the 31st, we have nothing more concerning any threatening movement by Gen. Urra.

THE LATE REPORTS FROM MEXICO.

The latest New Orleans papers throw no additional light upon the rumored entry of Gen. Scott into the city of Mexico. The *Pleayune* remains incredulous, and fortifies its opinion as follows:

"So far as we can learn, the latest accounts from Tampico make no mention whatever of Gen. Scott's victory. Letters of the 25th in abundance have been received in town from Tampico. They say not a word of the entrance said to have been made on the 17th—eight days previously. How far communications between Tampico and the capital have been interrupted by the late expedition of Col. De Russy we have been unable to learn; we have no later Mexican papers by either of the arrivals. But even were the usual mail entirely broken up, it would seem as if so important an event as the fall of the capital must inevitably have reached Tampico in eight or nine days, transmitted "from mouth to mouth." We still incline to the belief that Gen. Scott did not march from Puebla before the 15th."

Passengers from Matamoros tell us that the day they left that city news was received there by Mexican merchants that Gen. Scott had had an action with the Mexicans at the Rio Frio, and defeated them totally, with a loss on his part of three hundred men. If Gen. Scott entered Mexico on the 17th ultimo, this would give nine days for the news to have reached Matamoros—a distance of nearly 250 leagues by the way of San Luis Potosi and the Tula pass. The time is amply sufficient for the transmission of the news. But we have dates to the 26th from Tampico, which is several hundred miles nearer the capital, and yet not a word of General Scott's victory."

MR. CLAY AT BALTIMORE.

The Hon. HENRY CLAY arrived at Baltimore last evening in the Western train of cars, and took lodgings in Barnum's hotel. We understand that he will remain at Baltimore to-day, and will probably depart thence for the East on to-morrow.

Dates have been received at St. Louis, Missouri, from Santa Fe and the Plains to the 21st of June. Everything was quiet at Santa Fe. The Indians are congregating in large numbers on the Arkansas, and commit their depredations with impunity.

"SKIES BRIGHT!"—The available balance in the State Treasury of Pennsylvania, after paying the August interest, was \$327,227.

KENTUCKY.—The Frankfort Yeoman expresses the opinion that the Convention question has been carried by a majority of 30,000, and perhaps 10,000 over a constitutional majority. The question has to be submitted to the people once more.

There were sixteen graduates at the University of Georgia Commencement at Athens on the 5th instant. Hon. J. R. INGERSOLL delivered the oration before the Societies. Among the guests was Gen. CLINCH, the Whig candidate for Governor.

Three ocean steamers—one American, one English, and one French—leave in a few days for Europe; the *Washington* and *Philadelphia* from New York on Sunday, and the *Hibernia* from Boston on Monday.

HENRY CLAY is expected to arrive at Newport some time in the course of the next two weeks, and will take up his residence at Thorne's. We hope means will be adopted to induce the great statesman to extend his tour to Providence. No man in the country has been a greater friend to Rhode Island interests than HENRY CLAY, and wherever he moves within our borders he should be made aware that the people are not unmindful of his great services nor regardless of his worth. His sojourn among us should be made one continual gala day.—*Providence Transcript*.

We learn from the Cumberland Civilian that the Directors of the *Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company* have resolved to remove the Office of the Company from Cumberland to Frederick, (Md.)

Here are some of the recent items of expenditure of the Corporation of the city of New York:

Carriage-hire and contingent expenses of Common Council.....	\$1,120 37
Fourth of July celebration.....	1,769 15
Reception of President Polk.....	3,358 28
Tea-room supplies for Common Council.....	4,088 34

LIEUT. TAYLOR.—This officer was severely wounded and taken prisoner in the unlucky affair of Col. De Russy and the Mexicans under General Garay, and the first account represented his wound as mortal. But letters have been received, both at New Orleans and Baltimore, which say that he was still alive as late as the 20th of July, and kindly cared for by General Garay, into whose family he was received.

LATE FROM CALIFORNIA.

The Missouri Republican contains some late and interesting news from California, received through Messrs. SHAW and BOLDEA, direct from Oregon. They left the frontier settlement of that country on the 5th of May, and arrived at St. Joseph on the 27th July, having made the trip in eighty-three days. The company to which they were attached was composed of nineteen persons, who met with little difficulty on the route.

These gentlemen state that the emigrants to California and Oregon were making very handsome progress, being some twenty-five days ahead of the time usually occupied by the emigrants. One company was met at Big Sandy, and two at Green River. The Mormons, with six hundred and seventy-six wagons, were met at the forks of the Platte, on their route to California. The *Twelve Apostles*, as they are called, were at Fort Bridger, and it was understood that the Mormons would not proceed this season further than the neighborhood of the Salt Lake. All the emigrants were getting along very well.

At Fort Hall these gentlemen met with Mr. SAMUEL BRANNAN and four others, who had arrived there for the purpose of piloting the emigrants on the route to California. From Mr. Brannan, who is described as the editor of the "California Star," they obtained information up to the 25th of May, the most important of which, viz: that Col. FREMONT had been placed under arrest by Gen. KEARNEY for disobedience of orders, and ordered to the United States for trial. He either had left or would leave immediately for the States. Com. STROCK was also on his way home. The American fleet was engaged in operations against Mazatlan, Acapulco, and other towns in Lower California, and the troops had been ordered in the same direction. Gen. KEARNEY, it was understood, would leave California in time to reach home in September. Things were not in a very quiet or settled condition.

These gentlemen add, if possible, to the horror of the accounts heretofore received in relation to the sufferings of the emigrating parties which failed to reach California last winter. Seventy-three of them perished in the snow and from famine, and the living survived only by feasting on their dead companions.

Regarding the affairs of Oregon there does not appear to be any news of interest.

AN ENGLISH VIEW OF CHINESE AFFAIRS.

The following remarks on the future of China, and the necessities which that future involves, are strongly characterized by the practical good sense and clearness of vision that eminently belong to the paper from which they are taken—the *London Spectator*—and scarcely less so by its habitual unscrupulous laxity in point of moral obligation. The *Spectator* is always keen-sighted enough in perceiving to what point things are tending; it does not often put itself to